

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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DRAFTED BY EB/AN:AJRIMAS:DAP

APPROVED BY EB/OA:MHSTYLES

CAB - C. COLDREN (INFO)

ARA/CAR - J. THYDEN

EB/AN - R. BROWN

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R 141641Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAIR, JM

SUBJECT:CIVAIR: MINISTER BELL'S VISIT TO DEPARTMENT

REF: KINGSTON 2731

1. STYLES/BELL MEETING TOOK PLACE, AS SCHEDULED, ON JULY 9. BELL WAS ACCOMPANIED BY JAMAICA'S AMBASSADOR TO U.S. AND JAMAICAN EMBASSY STAFF MEMBER.

2. AS INDICATED IN REFTL, BELL EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN THAT SUBSEQUENT TO PAN AM'S SUSPENSION, AIR JAMAICA'S NEAR MONOPOLY ON NEW YORK-JAMAICA ROUTE WAS UNHEALTHY FOR JAMAICA'S TOURIST INDUSTRY WHICH IS ALREADY "TAKING A BEATING". HE WOULD PREFER TO SEE THE JAMAICAN AIRLINE REDUCED TO SOME 50 PERCENT OF THE U.S.-JAMAICA MARKET, WITH THE OTHER HALF SERVED BY U.S. AIRLINES. BELL NOTED THAT AMERICAN AIRLINES APPEARED TO BE THE ONLY U.S. AIRLINE INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING CARIBBEAN ROUTES, AND THAT

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FOR THIS REASON HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE AIRLINE OPERATE

TO JAMAICA. BELL WAS MAINLY INTERESTED IN SERVICE BETWEEN U.S. AND MONTEGO BAY, NOT KINGSTON. HE INDICATED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF EASTERN'S PROPOSAL TO SUSPEND

ITS KINGSTON SERVICE, AGREEING THAT THE ROUTE WAS NOT VIABLE.

3. SPECIFICALLY, BELL REQUESTED THE DEPARTMENT, IF POSSIBLE, TO: A) DESIGNATE AMERICAN AIRLINES FOR SERVING A ROUTE TO JAMAICA; B) ASSIST AMERICAN IN UNDERTAKING ANY REQUIRED INTERNAL PROCEDURAL STEPS FOR IMPLEMENTING SUCH SERVICE; AND C) ASSIST AMERICAN IN OBTAINING FROM THE CAB A "PROVISIONAL LICENSE (EXEMPTION AUTHORITY, AS OPPOSED TO HAVING THE AIRLINE UNDERGO THE GENERALLY LENGTHY PROCESS OF APPLYING BEFORE THE CAB FOR FULL CERTIFICATION (WITH PUBLIC HEARINGS). BELL ADDED THAT A DECISION ON AMERICAN WOULD BE NEEDED IN THE NEXT SIX WEEKS IF MARKETING PLANS FOR THE NEXT TOURIST SEASON WERE TO BE PREPARED IN AN ORDERLY FASHION. AMERICAN HAS INDICATED TO JAMAICAN'S (AND TO DEPARTMENT) THAT IT WOULD FILE APPLICATION ONLY WHEN IT BELIEVED A FAVORABLE RESPONSE WOULD BE EXPECTED.

4. STYLES' REPLY INCLUDED AN EXPLANATION OF CAB'S PROCEDURES FOR AUTHORIZING NEW SERVICE BY U.S. AIRLINES. HE POINTED OUT THAT DESIGNATION OF U.S. AIRLINES FOLLOWS THEIR AUTHORIZATION BY CAB. IT WAS NOTED THAT EXEMPTION AUTHORITY MAY BE SECURED ONLY IF NO OBJECTIONS ARE FILED BY OTHER AIRLINES. PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS BY AMERICAN TO OBTAIN CARIBBEAN EXEMPTION AUTHORITY WERE UNSUCCESSFUL WHEN OTHER U.S. AIRLINES OBJECTED. BELL INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE VISITING PAN AM AND EASTERN TO REQUEST THAT THEY NOT OBJECT TO ANY AMERICAN FILING FOR EXEMPTION AUTHORITY AND EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE THAT DEPARTMENT ALSO PUT SIMILAR PRESSURE ON THE TWO U.S. AIRLINES LIKELY TO OBJECT. STYLES REPLIED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE FOR DEPARTMENT TO EXERT SUCH PRESSURE ON U.S. AIRLINES, BUT INDICATED THAT HE WOULD CALL EASTERN AND PAN AM TO INFORM THE AIRLINES OF JAMAICA'S VIEWS. BELL EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION, SAYING: "FACT THAT YOU WILL TALK TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEM IS A GESTURE OF GOOD WILL."

5. BELL ALSO TOUCHED ON FOLLOWING MISCELLANEOUS POINTS: A) JAMAICA'S STATE OF EMERGENCY WAS MOTIVATED IN PART TO BRING TOURISM BACK TO JAMAICA; B) CHARTER FLIGHTS WERE MAKING INSIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO TOURISM AND COULD NOT REPLACE SCHEDULED SERVICE BY U.S. AIRLINES; C) MORE AIRLINES SERVING JAMAICA MEANT MORE ADVERTISING

OF JAMAICA AS TOURIST DESTINATION.

6. MEETING WAS FRIENDLY AND BUSSINESSLIKE. BELL
APPEARED IN EXCELLENT HEALTH AND DISPLAYED CONSIDER-
ABLE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED. JAMAICAN
EMBASSY INDICATED IT WOULD INFORM DEPARTMENT CONCERNING
OUTCOME OF BELL'S VISITS WITH U.S. AIRLINES. WE WOULD
ALSO APPRECIATE ANY FEEDBACK FROM EMBASSY, KINGSTON. KISSINGER

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